

Conservation Working Group Meeting January 15, 2002

Attendance: Vicki Nichols and Alan Graves (SOS), Kaitilin Gaffney (TOC) Milos Radakovich, Meredith Lopuch, Mike Osmond and Julia Novy Hildesley (WWF), Jack Ellwanger (PPN), Greg Gauthier (CWC), Deborah Streeter, Steve Webster (MBA), Jack Wickham (SC-Monterey), Holly Price.

Announcements:

- Pelican Protection Program on the 1/22 agenda for the City Council in Santa Cruz.
- COMPASS meeting on MPAs in Monterey
- Bay Net Monterey training would be held in March and April.
- Point Reyes Bird Observatory and the MPA Center sponsoring a meeting on reserves for pelagic species.
- Vicki attending Fisherman's Forum on MPAs in Portland on Jan. 24-26th.

Sanctuary Report:

Mystery oil spill on central coast has resulted in treatment of over 1000 oiled birds since Nov. 28th. The source of the spill is uncertain but thought to be an old sunken vessel. In December, the MBNMS submitted comments to the RWQCB urging the Board to maintain its current requirement for individual NPDES permits for desal and aquaculture operations. The Board voted to maintain individual permits for aquaculture but not desal. The MBNMS will be asking for reconsideration of this decision. Caltrans is pursuing a small landslide disposal area near Pitkin's Curve and will perform 3 years of biological monitoring at the site. The MBNMS has submitted a proposal to NOAA's Coastal Services Center for funding to develop guidelines for seawalls based on geological studies performed with the CCC. The MBNMS requested an extension of the Nearshore FMP from DFG. The MBNMS has some funding to do a feasibility study on a new visitor center.

Joint Management Plan Review

Holly gave an update on issues raised thus far in the scoping meetings. The CWG commended staff for their tremendous hard work and a successful series of scoping meetings. The CWG decided to submit their scoping recommendations in writing and add discussion of closing the SF donut hole, bring the Santa Cruz nearshore waters into the Sanctuary, extending the boundary South, fully protecting the Davidson Seamount, and ensuring full protection of the northern portion of the MBNMS (i.e., continue WQPP efforts in this area). The CWG also decided to voice support for SIMoN in their written comments.

MLPA Update

Kaitilin gave an update on the status of the MLPA. Meredith described the Coalition of Organizations for Ocean Life and COOL's efforts to ensure marine reserves are established on the Central Coast and within the MBNMS. Vicki and Holly gave an update on the Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries Marine Reserves study

group and Vicki announced the Central Coast Fishermen's Forum would be held March 16-18.

Gill Nets and Highlands Inn

Kaitilin announced that DFG's temporary gillnet closure regs had expired. Support is needed to reinstate these regs. Kaitilin also gave an update on the sewage issue at the Carmel Highlands. Comment letters on both issues were distributed.

Coast and Ocean Coalition

Vicki gave an update on the Coast and Ocean Coalition meeting held in SF on Monday.